

Stop the Spread of Purple Loosestrife...



Above. Digging roots

Below. Collecting beetles

Upper Right. Tying nets at the beetle farm

Lower Right. Putting beetles in plastic bags for placement in nets



In 2010, the TLC launched a major effort to combat Purple Loosestrife in Lac du Flambeau.

Despite having beautiful flowers, Purple Loosestrife does not belong here, has no natural enemies, and can destroy native loosestrife and other native plants.

Lac du Flambeau has several infestations of Purple Loosestrife:

- >Wild Rice Lake
- >White Sand Lake (several infestations)
- >Flambeau Lake (north shore by the Bear River dam)
- >Small pond along Hwy D between Pokegama Lake and Long Interlocken Lake
- >Moss Lake (several large areas of infestations)
- >Fence Lake/Crawling Stone Channel (near highway bridge)
- >Haskell Lake wetlands to the west & north)
- >Shishebogama Lake

From April to August, the TLC and Tribe accepted the challenge to

control the infestations biologically by raising thousands of *Galeracella* beetles and then distributing them throughout the infestations. The beetles dine almost exclusively on Purple Loosestrife and serve as a primary means for controlling the spread of the plant.

Last spring, TLC volunteers dug more than 200 clumps of invasive plant roots and transplanted them into multi-gallon pots.

The pots were then covered with cloth mesh, secured to the pots with duct tape, and set in small



wading pools to be kept constantly wet. The tops of the nets were tied to a wooden frame to provide space for the plants, which grew to about three feet tall by July.

In July, volunteers collected hundreds of *Galeracella* beetles from Purple Loosestrife infestations in wetlands already undergoing biological control.

Volunteers then distributed the beetles among the plants being



...Join the Beetle Brigade!

raised. The tops of the nets were untied, ten beetles were placed in

each net, and the nets were retied. The nets kept the beetles from flying away while keeping beetle-eating spiders from entering. After eating and

procreating for a few weeks, the ten beetles in a net became 2000 beetles.

After the beetles ate most of the leaves, volunteers carried the pots, nets, and beetles, by hand, car, truck, and boat to the existing infestations where the beetles were released

to continue dining and procreating.

The TLC raised and



distributed approximately 400,000 beetles among the infestations in Lac du Flambeau this season. Hopefully, the beetles will survive the winter and continue to dine on Purple Loosestrife next season, keeping the plants from spreading.

This is a labor intensive strategy and the TLC needs help to continue the effort next season.

Some volunteers were involved in every aspect of the project while

others took part in just one of the activities. Your help is needed whether you want to do it all or just a bit. In any case, become part of the Beetle Brigade and help in some way.



Upper Right. Load of pots
Upper Center. Collecting
beetles
Above. Purple Loosestrife
Left. Workshop, Discovery
Center

Please call the Town Hall now at 715-588-3358.